



SKYLINES

SKYLINER AN INSPIRATION

On February 18, Caleb Smith delivered an inspiring address to a large, captive audience on his aviation journey with several other Skyline members in attendance.



The College Park Airport Museum (CPAM), KCGS speaking engagement held on 18 Feb 2023 was a huge success.

The following topics were covered:

- Caleb's personal Journey, Experience, Challenges, Strength, and Hope
- Mentoring
- Introduction and Overview of SSC (allows the other side of the pond to see what Virginia is doing)
- Introduction and Overview of SSEF (educational support to SSC)
- Display & Briefing of the Sparrow Hawk-R Glider (outdoor)





NEW PILOT INTERVIEW

Lydia Olsen

Edited by Marcelo Morichi

1. When did you take your practical test?

A: 30 Oct 2022



2. How long did it last?

A: About 1.5 hours-ish for oral and 1 hour-ish for flight portion.

3. Who was the tormentor (Designated Pilot Examiner)?

A: Piet

4. What were the flight conditions that day?

A: The weather was calm but the airport was very busy that day with glider, parachute, and other air traffic.

5. How many flights did you complete? What do you remember most vividly about that flight?

A: 2. Piet gave me an audible “wow” on my second landing because it was so smooth.

6. The knowledge test tends to be something many student pilots procrastinate on. What’s your helpful advice for them?

A: I procrastinated on taking it for 11 years so I really shouldn’t be giving advice. Just sign up and take it. In the words of Chris

Norris, “The worst that happens is, if you fail, you know what you need to study more on, get signed off again, and then just take it again.”

7. Who was your first passenger after you became a pilot?

A: My Partner

8. What is your most memorable flight since you become a pilot?

A: My first flight with a passenger, it’s actually been my only flight so far and the weather was amazing! We got to share a thermal with Uwe.



9. What are your goals as a glider pilot for the next two years?

A: I’d like to start working towards my commercial.

10. If you met with Lydia when she started her flight lessons, what advice would you give her?

A: Just take the test.

11. What are the two things that Skyline Soaring Club does well in developing new pilots? What is the one thing that could be improved?

A: Week of training was very helpful and I feel working with one instructor speeds up the training process. Having more opportunities for ground school instruction would be very helpful. Perhaps weathered out days could be turned into a ground instruction days?



MUSINGS FROM THE TREASURER

Ralph Vawter

It is renewal time for SSA dues. Earlier this year, you were invoiced and paid your club dues and SSA dues. At the SSA convention, the SSA board voted to raise the SSA dues by \$5.00, for a total of \$80.00. We collected \$75.00 from each of you, meaning we will need to collect \$5.00 more. I will add \$5.00 to each member's account who paid SSA dues through the club.

Speaking of SSA membership. Would each of you be so kind as to log onto the SSA website (ssa.org) and edit your profile to reflect your membership with Skyline Soaring. This is only for those members whose primary club membership is with Skyline Soaring.

In the most recent issue of the SSA magazine, Rob Jacobsen is recorded as having earned his C Badge as well as his Bronze Badge. Congratulations, Rob!! Side note to the badge instructors: this is a big deal and merits more accolades than a small entry in the back of Soaring magazine. When a club member earns a badge, please let the club know. At the least, let the Duty Officer know so that they can put it in their Operations Report to the club.

A little late but shouldn't be overlooked. Toward the end of last season, it was noted that one of the front tires on one of the gators had a lot of wear. Our gator meister at the time – Dave Collier – jumped on the case and replaced the tire. Dave went the extra mile and looked into the root cause of the tire wear on just one tire. He found that the toe-in on that wheel was out of alignment. Dave adjusted the toe-in alleviating future excessive wear. Thanks, Dave!!

When you hear Keith Hilton say that he is going to change the tire on one of the K's, volunteer to help, assist, watch or otherwise be a part of that process. You will be amazed by the equipment and tools and effort that is necessary to change a tire on the K. Keith always mentions it and tackles the job with such aplomb that you would think it is an easy task. Participating in this process will give you an appreciation of what Keith has done over the years. It may even motivate you to land the K a little gentler and without the brakes locked.



SKYLINE'S NEWEST BOARD MEMBER

Carlos Troncoso

In March, Carlos replaced Jim Kellett on Skyline's Board of Directors.

From his online biography: "I've been a proud member of our soaring club since May 2010. I



was born in Bahia Blanca, Argentina in 1978 and grew up moving around due

to my dad's job. We lived in different cities in Argentina and even spent a few years in England before settling in DC in 1997. Now, I'm happy to call it home.

Growing up, I was always fascinated with aviation, thanks to my dad who is an aeronautical engineer and now a retired admiral of the Argentine navy. I spent many weekends at air shows and workshops, watching my dad build prototype airplanes. It wasn't until my early twenties when I got my first glider ride on a Super Blanik in the province of Cordoba that I caught "the bug."

After finishing my MS in Computer Science from GWU in 2010, I knew I wanted to dedicate my time to aviation. Since joining the Club, I've had some of the happiest memories of my life soaring through the skies. My first flight was with Shane, where we flew over the other side of the ridge, was amazing. I'll never forget this first flight, as I witnessed Shane's skills getting us back over the ridge while saying, "we may have to land on this side of the ridge..."

In August 2010, I was endorsed by Bob Sallada for my first solo, which felt like being born again - I was that happy! The support I received from all the instructors at the club, especially Piet Barber, was incredible. Piet and I spent hours going over all the material together, and I feel so lucky to have had such tremendous support from all these brilliant people.

In 2011, I earned my private rating, and then in 2014, I got my commercial rating at Bermuda High Soaring in South Carolina. It was a great experience learning to fly a new glider (Schweitzer 2-33) in a new airport while working toward my new rating."



Skyline Soaring Club, Inc. is a private, 501(c7) non-profit organization, dedicated to the enjoyment and promotion of the sport of soaring. SSC is based at the Front Royal-Warren County, Va. Airport and is an affiliate club of the Soaring Society of America. For information about the club go to www.skylinesoaring.org

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